

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SNM-02 AID-20 DODE-00 AGR-20

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IGA-02 DRC-01 /149 W
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R 221150Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MILI, TH

SUBJ: SPACE AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR SOYBEANS/INCOME
SUBSTITUTION

REFS: A. BANGKOK 538

B. STATE 12790

1. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING MAC AIRLIFT AND SO DOES KRIANGSAK. HOWEVER, AS SUGGESTED IN MILITARY CHANNEL MESSAGES CITED IN REF A, A POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR INCREMENTAL AIRLIFT ON SAC YOUNG TIGER FLIGHTS TRANSIT-ING MARCH AFB, CA. KRIANGSAK WAS ALSO PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED COST TO SHIP VIA MAC ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS. HE FULLY REALIZES THAT THE COST WOULD BE TOO GREAT FOR EITHER RTG OR US TO CONSIDER; EXCEPT ON NO CHARGE OPPORTUNE SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS.

2. AS ORDER TO TRANSWORLD WAS CONTINGENT ON ISSUE OF RTG LETTER OF CREDIT TO US BANK, KRIANGSAK NATURALLY ASSUMED SUCH ISSUE TO CROCKER NATIONAL BANK, SAN FRANCISCO, WOULD ALSO ASSURE BANK COORDINATING WITH TRANSWORLD INSTRUCTIONS AS TO STATUS OF PURCHASE.

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KRIANGSAK WILL CONFIRM WITH CROCKER THAT INFORMATION IS

PASSED TO TRANSWORLD TO HOLD SEED PENDING FURTHER CONTRACT ON SHIPMENT. APRIL-JUNE PLANTING REPORTED BY TRANSWORLD WAS BASED ON EARLIER PLAN WHICH ENVISIONED LOCAL SOURCE OF SEED FOR DEC-FEB PLANTING WHICH NOW NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE HERE.

3. FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS PARA 2
REF B:

(A) APPROXIMATELY 1400 ACRES ARE BEING PREPARED FOR PLANTING. EXACT NUMBER OF ACRES DISPLACING OPIUM UNKNOWN. KRIANGSAK HAS BEEN PROMISED LOCAL AGRICULTURAL STUDENT HELP IN PLANTING SEED TO ASSURE PROPER METHODS ARE USED. IN VIEW RTG AND OUR CONCERN WITH STUDENT ATTITUDES AND DEMANDS, THIS IS RELEVANT FACTOR IN GETTING SEEDS HERE.

(B) IN ADDITION TO SHORTAGE OF SEED, RTG WAS RECENTLY FORCED TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE IMPORT DUTY ON SOYBEAN PRODUCTS BECAUSE OF CRITICAL SHORTAGES, ESPECIALLY COOKING OIL. MARKETING IS NOT ISSUE BUT THE PREDICTED CONTINUED SHORTAGE OF SEED IS A DEFINITE PROBLEM FOR THE RTG.

(C) SUPREME COMMAND, WHO HAS TAKEN THIS ON AS A CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM IN NORTH THAILAND, ASSURES US THAT IT HAS BEEN FULLY COORDINATED WITH OTHER RTG AGENCIES.

(D) BELIEVE THIS EFFORT, WHICH IS IMMEDIATE, WILL ASSIST PROJECTED USOM EFFORTS BY ALSO PROVIDING A SOURCE OF SEED FOR PLANTING IN THEIR SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS.
KINTNER

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